HINTS

FOR THE

Carrying into EXECUTION

THE

ACTS,

For the better Ordering of the

Militia FORCES,

IN

ENGLAND.

———— *Si quid noviſti Rectius iſtis*
Candidus imperti, ſi non his utere mecum.

LONDON:
Printed by JOHN TOWERS, in *Piccadilly.*
MDCCLIX.

Advertiſement.

AS the Militia ſpirit in this Kingdom gains ſo much ground, the compiler of the following ſheets thought it might not be unacceptable to the public to lay before them a few hints relating thereto, and being founded upon a practice already purſued with much ſucceſs, he thought it a duty he owed his country in general, to make them known, whereby other gentlemen will have an opportunity of improving upon them, as theſe are far from being preſumed to be perfect.

THE references in the margin are to the pages in the octavo edition of the Militia Acts, printed by Baſket, for the convenience of the pocket.

46-1-8-495

HINTS

FOR THE

Carrying into EXECUTION

THE

ACTS,

For the better Ordering of the

Militia FORCES.

THE carrying into execution the Acts for the better ordering of the Militia in the ſeveral counties of England, being veſted in the Lord Lieutenants, aſſiſted by their ſeveral Deputy-Lieutenants, tho' the latter are empowered to execute every part, except that of granting commiſſions, yet the preſence of the former (as they are appointed to the chief command thereof

in their reſpective counties) will always give great ſpirit, particularly upon the Outſet of the plan, and at every Annual General Meeting, which is appointed by the Act to be held on the firſt Tueſday in June in the city or principal town of the county; and as perſons of rank and fortune will give a ſanction to the proceedings, it is hoped that many other gentlemen, as well as Deputy-Lieutenants, will be preſent.

30. Geo. 2. p. 29.

It is provided, that the Lord-Lieutenant, (in caſe there have not been a ſufficient number of perſons who have offer'd to accept commiſſions for field-officers and captains equal to the number requiſite for any one battalion of the Militia for the county, riding or place) ſhall on or before the 25th of March in every year, ſummon a meeting of perſons qualified and willing to accept of commiſſions in the Militia of the county, to deliver in their names, ſpecifying the rank they will ſerve in; and the Lord-Lieutenant

31. Geo. 2. p. 16.

Lieutenant is alſo required to appoint a proper number of commiſſion officers before the times appointed for holding the ſecond ſub-diviſion meetings of Deputy-Lieutenants and Juſtices of the peace. 31. Geo. 2. p. 8.

THESE clauſes of the acts are ſtated, that the gentlemen in the ſeveral counties, who are willing to engage themſelves in the defence of their country, may know how to apply; and it muſt have great influence to excite ſubſtantial, and conſequently proper perſons to ſerve voluntarily in the Militia as private men, when they know that gentlemen of property and the firſt conſequence are to command them; it is likewiſe hoped, that thoſe gentlemen who ſo generouſly offer themſelves, and are approved of by his Majeſty as officers, will give their attendance at the ſeveral neceſſary meetings for carrying the act into execution; and as every commiſſion is honourable upon ſo intereſting an occaſion, no gentleman will be

ſcrupulouſly

ſcrupulouſly nice in what rank he ſerves, but offer himſelf, as has been the caſe in ſome counties, for any one command conſiſtent with his qualifications from an enſign upwards. It is clear, that the more diſtinguiſhed Gentlemen are for rank and fortune, the greater honour and credit will accrue to them for thus devoting themſelves to the publick ſervice.

HAVING hinted how gentlemen may ſhew their inclination, and give an example of complying with the acts, by offering themſelves to head their Neighbours, the proportion of the number of ſuch officers requiſite in each county will be eaſily ſettled, by calculating the number of private men ſuch county furniſhes, as ſpecified in the Act, to form the regiments or battalion thereof. Regiments being to conſiſt, where the number of men will admit, of twelve companies (but in no caſe of leſs than of ſeven companies) conſequently the officers

30. Geo. 2. p. 22.

are

are to be in proportion to the number of the companies compoſing the ſame: But where the number of men to be raiſed will not amount to ſeven companies, and therefore not ſufficient to form a regiment, ſuch companies are to be formed into a battalion under the command of the Lord Lieutenant and one field officer, one adjutant, one ſerjeant major, one drum major, and one clerk. As to the ſtrength of the companies, which by the act are not to be leſs than forty men each, it is recommended that they ſhould conſiſt of ſixty, the proportion of ſerjeants and corporals being directed one of each to every twenty men; and it will be of conſequence, in caſe of ſickneſs or vacancy, that two ſerjeants ſhould always be upon duty in each company, which cannot happen if the corps is of a fewer number; becauſe in ſuch caſe it can have but two ſerjeants in the whole. Beſides, as a regiment when drawn up in battalion ſhould conſiſt of, ſixteen platoons,

30. Geo. 2. p. 55.

30. Geo. 2. p. 20. 31. Geo. 2. p. 11.

platoons, each platoon will be half a company of thirty men, each ſub-diviſion a whole company, and each grand diviſion two companies, and thereby facilitate the telling them off whenever they are wanted to be ſo diſpoſed of. But if the regiment ſhould conſiſt of more than eight companies of ſixty men each, then the overplus company or companies to be placed on the flanks as grenadiers, and called flank companies. The poſting likewiſe of officers to their own companies is a meaſure very much to be wiſh'd for, ſince it is natural to expect the private men will more reſolutely ſupport, and chearfully obey thoſe gentlemen with whom they are acquainted, than others who, tho' of the ſame county, yet from their place of reſidence being at a diſtance, they may know little of; therefore the method laid down by Mr. Fage in his form of diſcipline, ſeems very well calculated to anſwer this purpoſe, where the companies are ſo ranged that there are always captains upon the flanks,

flanks, and the field officers commanding their own companies, *viz.* the colonels and lieutenant colonels in the centre, and the enſigns of thoſe companies carrying the colours; which diſpoſition cannot be made in any other method of drawing them up.

By another ſection of this act, the general meeting of Lord Lieutenants and Deputy Lieutenants is to be held annually on the firſt Tueſday in June, at ſome city or principal town of the county; and as ſolemnity is neceſſary to be kept up in all public meetings, it is to be wiſhed that the Lord Lieutenants will attend in perſon, and ſuch of the Deputy Lieutenants as can with convenience, as well as other gentlemen, ſince a great appearance will give a countenance to the proceedings; it is likewiſe ſubmitted, that the place of holding ſuch meetings ſhould be at the court-houſe or public hall of the ſaid city or principal town; 30. Geo. 2. p. 29.

for theſe being the uſual places for tranſacting of public buſineſs, and diſtributing juſtice, are much more proper for carrying this law into execution, at leaſt at the annual general meeting, than a private room at an inn.

THE buſineſs of this meeting is to
30. Geo. 2. p. 29. iſſue out orders to the conſtables, or other officers of the diviſions,
31. Geo. 2. p. 19. requiring the petty conſtables to deliver at the ſub-diviſion meetings, returns of all perſons uſually, and at that time dwelling in their diviſions, between the age of eighteen and fifty (except peers of the realm,
30. Geo. 2. p. 30. commiſſion officers, non-
31. Geo. 2. p. 25. commiſſion officers, and private men in any regiment, troop or company in his majeſty's forces, or in any of his majeſty's caſtles or forts; commiſſion-officers ſerving in the militia, members of the univerſities, clergymen, teachers of any ſeperate congregation; conſtables and other peace officers, articled clerks, apprentices,

apprentices, ſeamen, or ſeafaring men, and perſons that are free of the watermens company) the numbers in each pariſh, tything or place; the rank and occupation of each perſon, and which of them labour under any infirmities incapacitating them from ſerving as militia men, are to be diſtinguiſhed in the ſaid liſt, and a copy thereof is to be fixed on the door of the church or chapel of every pariſh or place the Sunday before they are to make the return; and the Deputy Lieutenants, and juſtices of the peace, in their ſaid ſub-diviſion meetings are, after hearing any perſon who thinks himſelf aggrieved by having his name inſerted in ſuch liſts, or by any other's being omitted, to direct the liſts to be amended accordingly; and appoint the times and places for their ſecond ſub-diviſion meeting, and are to make return to the ſecond general meeting of all the liſts ſo amended.

30. Geo. 2. p. 34.

31. Geo. 2. p. 21.

THE end of theſe parts of the acts is, that

the list may be made out correct; for which purpose it will be proper for the petty constables, tythingmen, headboroughs, and other officers, to be particularly order'd to attend the Deputy Lieutenants and Justices at the sub-division meetings, when the lists are to be amended, that they may be ready to answer any questions relating to them, and give such information, as may enable the gentlemen to act with greater precision, since all vacancies happening within the year are to be filled up out of such lists.

30. Geo. 2. p. 42. 30. Geo. 2. p. 37. NEW lists are also directed to be made out and returned to the annual sub-division meeting on the Tuesday in the week before Michaelmas-day; but it is to be hoped that volunteers offering themselves, will make the drawing lots out of the lists unnecessary. A volunteer is intitled to all the privileges of a militia man, so not liable to serve again until every one in his parish has served once; no doubt therefore many persons will chuse that period when they

are moſt in health, and leaſt incumber'd with a family, as it may happen not above once in their lives, and but for three years continuance, rather than omit ſuch an opportunity, and have their lot drawn at a time when it may become inconvenient to them to ſerve.

THE liſts amended, and returned to the ſecond general meeting, the buſineſs will there be to proportion the numbers agreeable to the quota allotted by act of parliament; which will be readily done by dividing the number returned in all the liſts, by the number they are directed to furniſh, which will ſhew how many are to be allotted to each place; and accordingly tables of proportion are to be made out for the guidance of gentlemen, when they come to adjuſt the numbers to be furniſhed out of each pariſh. To illuſtrate this more clearly, ſuppoſe it ſhould turn out to be 1 in 27, the table will run 2 in 54, 4 in 108,

6 in 162, and ſo on; and any other quota of proportion may be raiſed as ſhall be found convenient; by which means the gentlemen, upon ſeeing the number of each liſt, and comparing them with the tables of proportion, will at one view pretty nearly aſcertain the number to be drawn out of that liſt; and ſuch drawing for them may be purſued in the following manner, *viz.* by putting pieces of paper marked with numbers; if, as before ſuppoſed, every 27 men is to furniſh one man, then 27 pieces of paper, number'd from 1 to 27, and then ſome indifferent perſon may draw out a number, which is to correſpond to the name of the perſon in the ſaid liſt. For example, Suppoſing number 14 to be drawn, then the 14th perſon on that liſt will be the man to ſerve; and when one man is allotted in that manner out of the liſts, the number being returned into the hat, they are to draw again, and inſtead of allotting it to any of the perſons names

who

who had before ſtood the chance, that number will have regard to the ſecond diviſion of numbers upon the liſt, that is, from 28 to 54, and ſo on, every time of drawing, one to every diviſion of numbers; by which means every perſon will ſtand but one chance; whereas were the ſeveral lots to be drawn all together, every perſon would ſtand the ſame number of chances as there are lots, and poſſibly three or four might be drawn out of the ſame twenty-ſeven; as has been the caſe where this method has not been followed. The drawing of lots is to be done at the ſecond ſub-diviſion meeting, when they are to appoint another to be held within three weeks, for the perſons ſo drawn to appear at, to take the oath, and be inrolled, or provide proper ſubſtitutes to be ſworn, inrolled, and ſerve for them. If at ſuch meeting any perſon ſhall from a falſe miſrepreſentation of the law, refuſe or neglect to take the oath, or provide a ſubſtitute, whereby he makes himſelf liable to the forfeiture of ten pounds, and

30. Geo. 2. p. 34.
31. Geo. 2. p. 23.

30. Geo. 2. p. 36.
31. Geo. 2. p. 25.

at

at the end of three years is to be appointed to ſerve again without drawing lots, it is ſubmitted it will be beſt for the gentlemen, without entering into the queſtion at that meeting, to iſſue a ſummons to ſuch perſon or perſons to appear at ſome appointed time before them, to ſhew cauſe why the penalty ſhould not be levied agreeable to law. This will give the men time to recollect themſelves, and probably induce them to comply with the directions of the act, as has been experienced; or, in caſe of a ſecond refuſal or neglect, the country will be ſatisfied by the penalty being levied on ſuch defaulters, as a leſſon for them, and an example to others, not to break the laws. Within three weeks after copies
31. Geo. 2. p. 27. of the roll of the men thus ſworn and inrolled have been returned to the lord lieutenant, a general meeting is to be held of the Lord Lieutenant, and Deputy Lieutenants to form the Militia into regiments and battalions, and to poſt to each Company the proper commiſſion and non commiſſion officers which having been already obſerved upon,

it

it will be unneceſſary to ſay more, than to recommend a cloſe attention to the ſeveral parts of the acts; taking notice of ſuch inconveniences as may occur in the execution thereof, in order to have them, if any, remedied by the legiſlature in a future bill.

THE buſineſs of the firſt general meeting, being to order liſts to be made out and returned to the ſub-diviſion meeting, it is then likewiſe directed that the gentlemen ſhould ſub-divide themſelves in their ſeveral diſtricts; and this is recommended to be according to the uſual ſittings of the juſtices at their ſpecial ſeſſions; thoſe being the places that country people are beſt acquainted with, from their reſort on their public affairs. This leads to another conſideration, that of calling the names of companies after thoſe places, or ſome other diviſions of the county, as hundreds, &c. which being always permanent, will be better known, than if called after the particular captains, or any

30. Geo. 2. p. 32.
31. Geo. 2. p. 19.

other diſtinction of 1ſt, 2d, or 3d Companies.

HAVING thus ſtated the method of the meetings for ballotting and forming the regiment, a few obſervations on the days, times, and places of exerciſe, and the manner of carrying on the ſame, may be neceſſary.

AS to the ſeveral different plans drawn up, no more need be obſerved, than that the firing motions being the ſame as are practiſed by the army, and eſſential for ſervice, the different modes of clubbing, ſecuring, or grounding their firelocks, may be left entirely to judgment.

THE days of exerciſes are properly left open, that the adjutant may attend as many, both in half and whole companies, as he can; and therefore he ſhould reſide near the centre of his buſineſs, to take his round regularly, and by that means finiſh near his own abode at the end of

that week; the ſerjeant-major may attend the overplus companies, and now and then the adjutant may change with him to ſee what progreſs the private men have made. But it is hoped the major will as often as he can, and the other field-officers alſo, viſit the companies to encourage the men, who will take more pains when the principal officers appear among them; and by it is recommended, that the colonel, attended by the lieutenant-colonel and major, ſhould make a progreſs round to each company once, when at exerciſe, and, if poſſible, at the firſt outſet of their plan.

When the days and places are fixt, which is to be done at ſome general meeting, and may be eaſily aſcertained by the officers, and other perſons acquainted with the ſeveral neighbourhoods, the time of the day of calling the private men out is next to be conſidered; and it is ſubmitted to conſideration, that the afternoon is the propereſt time for

for their appearing in the field, viz. at one of the clock, or later as the ſummer advances, by which means the men that do not come from far, will have all the morning to work, and their labour will no more incapacitate them for the performance of their exerciſe than it does for the game at cricket, or any other field diverſions. It is a plan that has been found to reconcile the execution of this act very much to the farmer, and maſters of ſervants, and is very ſatisfactory to thoſe who keep ſhops, or work for themſelves; the time of exerciſing being ſix hours, will naturally take up ſome part of the heat of the day, and the evening will be better than the morning, unleſs they are out too early for the gentlemen who live at any diſtance to attend them; but this with regard to the conſideration of circumſtance and place.

ALL the particulars relating to the perfecting of this ſervice will be eaſily purſued by attending, to the ſeveral acts made

made for that purpoſe; and as theſe hints are only intended for outlines, and drawn up in haſte, it is hoped they will be received with candour; if they forward the execution of theſe laws they anſwer the purpoſe.

To conclude, ſummonſes for abſentees or other offences, protections, diſcharges, returns, or other matters neceſſary to the execution of this eſtabliſhment, forms of them are ready to be ſeen at the publiſher's hereof, who will follow any directions given him, and execute them in the moſt expeditious manner, as well as moſt reaſonable charge

FINIS.

BRITISH MUSEUM